

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10 and 11 were pending. New claims 12-16 are added herein. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatsuzuka et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,138,459 (hereinafter "Yatsuzuka"), in view of Nashiki, U.S. Patent No. 6,144,132. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Applicants note that claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the movable core has as many magnetic inductors as the teeth and that each of the permanent magnets disposed on one side of the magnetic shielding plate is magnetized to have a polarity opposite to that of the permanent magnets disposed on the other side of the shield.

Applicants first note that the Examiner has failed to provide evidence of teachings taken from the references, sufficient to motivate or guide one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Yatsuzuka and Nashiki or Mita. Applicants submit that since Yatsuzuka is directed to a linear compressor and Nashiki is directed to a permanent magnet motor, one of ordinary skill in the art pertinent to Yatsuzuka would not look to the teachings of Nashiki to account for deficiencies in the teachings of Yatsuzuka.

However, even if the references are properly combinable, applicants submit that the references alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the claimed reciprocating movable core having, for example, as many magnetic inductors as the teeth. It should be noted that while Fig. 9 of Yatsuzuka et al. shows two pairs of magnetic teeth, it fails to show a movable core that has two pairs of, or four, magnetic inductors in accordance with the claimed movable core.

Similarly, Nashiki shows a rotor core having a number of inductors different from the number of teeth of the stator. Specifically, Figs. 1 and 6 of Nashiki show a stator with six teeth and a rotor with eight inductors. Mita et al. shows a rotor core having a number of inductors different from the number of teeth of the stator. Specifically, Fig. 2 of Mita shows a stator with six teeth and a rotor having four inductors.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be sustained in that the applied art combination fails to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4, by virtue of depending from claim 1, are allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein with regard to claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatsuzuka in view of Nashiki as applied above, and further in view of Yarr et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,389,844. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claims 8, 10 and 11, by virtue of depending from claim 1, are allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein with regard to claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 8, 10 and 11 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants incidentally note that Yarr fails to teach or suggest a reciprocating movable core having as many magnetic inductors as the teeth, and at best, shows only a plurality of permanent magnet projecting between adjacent teeth.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yatsuzuka in view of Nashiki as applied above, and further in view of Hazelton, U.S. Patent No. 6,313,551. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 5, by virtue of depending from claim 1, is allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein with regard to claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

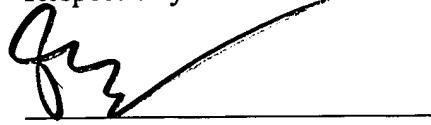
Applicants incidentally note that Hazelton fails to teach or suggest a reciprocating movable core having as many magnetic inductors as the teeth and, at best, only shows a permanent magnet array.

New claims 12-16 are added herein to provide additional claim coverage. Applicants note that the features of claims 12 and 13, for example, are described in connection with the embodiments described on page 6, lines 25-27. Claim 14 recites many of the features of claim 1 using, in some instances, slightly different claim language. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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